

What is claimed is:

1. An export file management system for generating export files based on basic export data obtained from a plurality of manufacturing databases, and for automatically sending shipping advices to corresponding consignees of cargoes by e-mail, the system comprising:

- a plurality of manufacturing workstations;

- a database server comprising a database;

- an application server comprising:

- a basic data module for obtaining basic export data by accessing the manufacturing workstations, and for storing said obtained basic export data in the database;

- a tracking module for obtaining information on cargo tracking and abnormality messages sent by forwarders via corresponding client computers;

- an export file management module for obtaining required data from the database; and for generating export files, address lists, cargo tracking records, and shipping advices based on said required data; and

- a communication module for receiving shipping advices, obtaining information on consignees of cargoes by accessing corresponding address lists in the database, and for sending the shipping advices to the consignees according to said obtained information on consignees; and

- a network connecting the manufacturing workstations and the application server.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the database is used for storing information on cargoes, information on forwarders, address lists, export files, and cargo tracking records.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the manufacturing workstations comprises:

a manufacturing database server comprising a manufacturing database for storing the basic export data; and

a manufacturing application server comprising an authorization management module for defining operational rights and a scope of access for each user of the manufacturing workstation.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein for each of the cargo, the export files comprise a packing list, a pro forma invoice, and a bill of lading.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the information on cargo tracking comprises an actual arrival time and an actual departure time for each port through which a cargo has passed, a system status, a shipping status and a current position of the cargo.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the required data comprises basic export data, information on a cargo, a shipping path, an invoice number, an arrival time at a destination port, and a flight or voyage number.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the export file management module is used for accessing the database on a predetermined schedule to obtain cargo tracking records and basic export data, and for generating reports based on said obtained tracking records and basic export data.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein on each occasion of said accessing, the reports comprise an on way tracking report for describing information on delivery between original ports and respective destination ports, an abnormality report comprising information on any delayed cargoes, and a booking status report for showing booking statuses of orders.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the address lists are used for recording recipients of reports and the consignee of cargoes.

10. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the shipping advices is

used for informing a corresponding consignee of up-to-date details of a cargo once after the cargo is delivered to the consignee, and comprises an invoice number, basic information on the cargo, information on forwarders, a shipping path, an arrival time at the destination port, and a flight or voyage number.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein generated export files are attached to each of the shipping advices.

12. The system according to claim 7, wherein the export file management module is further used for sending the reports and the shipping advices to the communication module.

13. The system according to claim 1, wherein the communication module is used for receiving reports sent by the export file management module, obtaining information on recipients of the reports, and sending the reports according to said information on recipients.

14. The system according to claim 7, wherein the application server further comprises a time control module for setting a first time parameter, a second time parameter and a third time parameter, wherein:

the first time parameter defines times at which the basic data module accesses the manufacturing databases of the manufacturing workstations;

the second time parameter defines times at which the export file management module accesses the database to generate series of export files; and

the third time parameter defines times at which the communication module sends the reports.

15. An export file management method for generating export files based on basic export data obtained from a manufacturing database, and for automatically sending a shipping advice to a corresponding consignee of a cargo by e-mail, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining basic export data on the cargo by accessing the manufacturing database;

(b) storing the basic export data in a system database;

(c) obtaining the basic export data from the system database to generate a series of export files, an address list and a cargo tracking record;

(d) receiving information on cargo tracking and abnormality messages from a client computer of a corresponding forwarder, and storing said received information in the system database;

(e) obtaining the basic export data, the information on cargo tracking and the export files by accessing the system database, and generating a shipping advice; and

(f) obtaining information on a corresponding consignee of the cargo by accessing the address list of the system database, and sending the shipping advice to the consignee based on the obtained information.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the basic export data comprise information on the cargo, one or more forwarders and a shipping path.

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:

(a1) setting a first time parameter which defines times at which the manufacturing database is accessed;

(a2) setting a second time parameter which defines times at which the system database is accessed; and

(a3) setting a third time parameter which defines times at which reports are sent.

18. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

(g) generating reports on a plurality of cargoes by accessing the information on cargo tracking and the basic export data in the system database; and

(h) obtaining information on corresponding recipients of the reports by accessing the address list of the system database, and sending the reports to the recipients based on the obtained information.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the reports comprise: an on way tracking report for describing information on delivery between original ports and respective destination ports, an abnormality report comprising information on any delayed cargoes, and a booking status report for showing booking statuses of orders.

20. A method of managing export files, comprising steps of:
setting time parameters;
obtaining basic export data from manufacturing databases on a daily basis;
generating export files and a cargo tracking record for each cargo;
receiving information on cargo tracking and abnormality messages for each cargo;
generating a shipping advice;
sending the shipping advice to a corresponding consignee;
generating a series of reports on a daily basis;
sending the reports to corresponding recipients.